and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. For giving effect to the directions of Supreme Court, detailed guidelines have been sent to the State Governments. The process for conduct for survey has already begun.

Implementation of the Recommendations by the NCRL

989. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in its report of 1991 had recommended that the minimum rate of wages for the agricultural workers should not be fixed below Rs. 20 per day on the basis of prices prevailing during 1990's;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been implemented by the State Governments particularly that of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of NCRL throughout the country for the benefit of agricultural workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After discussion a concensus evolved in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in February, 1992, the Central Government requested the State Governments to implement the recommendations. According to information available, almost all States including the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have implemented this recommendation.

(d) Major steps taken to implement the recommendations of NCRL for the benefit of agricultural workers include taking up comprehensive Central legislation to regulate the employment and conditions of service and to provide for their welfare; improvement of infrastructural facilities in rural areas, intensified developmental programmes, self employment and financial assistance programmes; substantial increase in outlays for Rural Development during the VIIIth Plan and stricter enforcement of Labour Legislation.

Establishment Registered with B.I.F.R. having default of ESI and EPF due

990. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) number of establishments registered with BIFR having default of ESI dues and Employees Provident Fund dues as on 30th September, 1996;

(b) the outstanding amounts involved;

(c) the number of defaulting Public Sector establishments;

(d) number of defaulting establishments where the payment has been made from the Special Reserve Fund (SRF) formed under EPF Scheme and the total amount paid so far;

(e) whether ESI and EPF authorities are facing problems in recovery of EPF and ESI because of Section 22 of SICA; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government so far to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) According to available information there are 346 establishments registered with BIFR having ESI arrear of Rs. 105.68 crore and 379 establishments registered with BIFR having EPF arrear of Rs. 132.00 crore.

(c) In public sector there are 93 establishments having ESI default and 236 establishments having EPF default.

(d) An amount of Rs. 6.20 crore has been paid from the Special Reserve Fund in respect of 37 unexempted defaulting establishments.

(e) and (f) Immediate coercive recovery action is not possible against the establishments registered with BIFR. However, necessary action as provided under the ESI Act and the EPF & MP Act is taken to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

A.I.T.U.C.'s demand for exemption from ESI Act

991. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the
Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Trade Union Congress has demanded exemption to such